

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8045

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 17371

FOL TEL FROM SONGKHLA DATED NOV 1 SENT ACTION BANGKOK BEING RE-
PEATED FOR UR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 025

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR EG TH

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN AID FOR THAI MUSLIM STUDENTS

1. THE NATION, OCTOBER 31, REPORTS THE PENDING ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN "ISLAMIC AND ARABIC STUDIES PROGRAM" AT THE PINCE OF
SONGKHLA UNIVERSITY CAMPUR AT PATTANI. EGYPTIAN AID WILL
REPORTEDLY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHER UNIVERSITIES IN SOUTH
THAILAND AND SPONSOR THE SENDING OF EGYPTIAN PROFESSORS TO
THESE CAMPUSES.

2. ARTICLE FURTHER STATES THAT RTG STATE UNIVERSITIES BUREAU
THINKING OF SENDING PATTANI CAMPUS RECTOC DR. CHAMNAN PRATHUMSIN
AND TWO MUSLIM LECTURERS ON VISIT TO EGYPT. (FYI: CHAMNAN
WAS HOST FOR AMBASSADOR KINTNER'S VISIT TO PATTANI IN
SEPTEMBER, HAS PHD FROM US AND HAS BEEN VERY FRIENDLY TO US
DOWN HERE).

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3. COMMENT: DIFFICULT TO JUDGE WHETHER PLANS WILL COME TO

FRUITION OR NOT. AFTER AL-TOHAMY VISIT HER LAST AUGUST, DEP. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN WAS SUPPOSED TO LEAD THAI DELEGATION ON RETURN VISIT TO CAIRO. YALA GOVERNOR SANEH WATHANATHORN, WHO WAS DUE TO MAKE TRIP ALONG WITH CHATCHAI, RECENTLY TOLD ME HE FELT RTG MFA FAILED TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT OFFER AND TRIP WAS OFF.

4. IN ANY EVENT, OFFICIALS HERE FELT TOHAMY VISIT WAS PUBLIC RELATIONS COUP IN THAT TOHAMY CLAIMED HE SAW NO SIGNS OF RTG OPPRESSING ITS MUSLIM MINORITY. UNIVERSITIES WOULD WELCOME EXCHANGE OF PROFESSORS AND ARABIC STUDIES PROGRAM. CURRENTLY 20-30 THAI MUSLIMS ARE SENT TO STUDY AT CAIRO AND MECCA ON SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED BY ARAB NATIONS. CASTRODALE. UNQUOTE. KINTNER

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